



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,448	09/20/2004	Glenn A. Cowelchuk	04658 (LC 0162 PUS)	5447
36014	7590	08/29/2006	EXAMINER	
ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C. 28333 TELEGRAPH ROAD, SUITE 250 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034			NGUYEN, PHUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/711,448

Applicant(s)

COWELCHUK ET AL.

Examiner

Phung T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,8-12,15,19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7,13,14 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/20/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 8-12, 15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schofield et al. (US 2005/0040941).

Regarding claim 1: Schofield et al. disclose vehicular tire pressure monitoring system comprising a passenger cabin of the vehicle; a feedback system for playing a plurality of audio programs for alerting a vehicle occupant of a plurality of vehicle conditions, said plurality of vehicle conditions including at least one of an open-door condition, a low-fuel condition, a maintenance-required condition, a low-tire-pressure condition, a headlights-on condition, a key-in-the-ignition condition, an unfastened-seatbelt condition, an engine-start condition, and an engine-shut-off condition; and a sensor for detecting said plurality of vehicle conditions and actuating said feedback system to play said plurality of audio programs; wherein said plurality of audio programs provide a predetermined theme for said passenger cabin (fig. 6, paragraph 0058).

Regarding claim 8: Schofield et al. disclose a media storage device for storing said plurality of audio programs; and a media playback device coupled to said media storage device for playing said plurality of audio programs (paragraph 0058, lines 95-114).

Art Unit: 2612

Regarding claim 9: All the claimed subject matter is already discussed in respect to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 10: Refer to claim 8 above.

Regarding claim 11: Schofield et al. disclose wherein each of the plurality of audio programs has a predetermined volume (paragraph 0058, lines 95-114).

Regarding claim 12: Schofield et al. inherently disclose wherein each of the plurality of audio programs had a predetermined duration (paragraph 0058).

Regarding claim 15: Schofield et al. disclose wherein said cosmetic trim is coupled to at least one of a steering wheel, a dashboard fascia, a gear shifter mechanism, a vehicle door, a vehicle seat, a center console, an overhead eyewear receptacle, an overhead transmitter receptacle, and an overhead light device as shown in figure 1.

Regarding claim 19: All the claimed subject matter is already discussed in respect to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 20: Schofield et al. inherently disclose an input device coupled to the feedback system for receiving a plurality of supplemental audio programs (paragraph 0058, lines 95-107).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-7, 13, 14, and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Ogino et al. [U.S. Pat. 6,100,792] disclose car security apparatus and car security system.

b. Flick [US 2005/0275509] discloses vehicle security system controlling vehicle body position and related methods.

c. Koike et al. [US 2004/0178902] disclose system for warning a failure to wear a seat belt.

d. Koike et al. [US Pat. 5,635,903] disclose simulated sound generator for electric vehicles.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phung Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2968. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J Wu, can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for this Group is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.

Phung Nguyen



Date: August 24, 2006